

# The Loyola Chapel



*A place of peace and prayer...*  
*...A warm and welcoming*  
*community*



**Concordia**  
UNIVERSITY

# Welcome to the Loyola Chapel

The Loyola Chapel of Concordia University has been home to a Catholic worshipping community since 1933. It was built during the Depression with a generous donation from the inheritance of Rev. Francis C. Smith, S.J., for whom the auditorium beneath the Chapel is named.

Everyone is welcome to come to Loyola Chapel at any time to find a quiet place to pray, to meditate, or just "to be." It is still the place of worship of a vibrant and inclusive Catholic community within the Archdiocese of Montreal, open to Concordia students, faculty, staff, alumni, and interested friends and neighbours.



The Processional Cross  
Created by Robert Nagy

## History

The history of the Chapel is closely tied to that of the English-speaking Jesuits of Montreal who founded Loyola High School and College in 1899 and first started building this west-end campus in 1913. The Chapel doubled as St. Ignatius Parish until a separate church was built around the corner on West Broadway in 1966.

While the Chapel originally served Roman Catholics almost exclusively, the emphasis shifted with the merger of Loyola College and Sir George Williams University in 1974 to form Concordia University, making the Chapel more of a religious and cultural center serving a much larger, more diverse university population. The shift was in step with the times and came about as a creative response to the religious and cultural changes created not only by the merger but also by the Quiet Revolution in Quebec.

The day-to-day affairs of the Chapel, once the domain of the Jesuits, now come under the umbrella of Concordia's Multi-faith Chaplaincy. This team of men and women, both lay and

religious, married and single, represent the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Unitarian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Eastern Orthodox and Buddhist traditions. Regular religious services at the Chapel remain primarily Roman Catholic, with Sunday and weekday Eucharistic celebrations. The Chapel Meditation Room is also used weekly for Buddhist meditation, and the Chapel serves Concordia University as a sacred space for weddings, baptisms, memorial services, concerts, recitals, lectures, panel discussions and celebrations of a variety of faith traditions.

## Architecture

Chapel records show that it was an architectural challenge to capture in stone the living spirit of Loyola. The Loyola College Jesuits looked upon the Chapel as the center of their liturgical life. It is loaded with living memories of the Jesuit and Christian traditions; every doorway has an emblem, every buttress a crest, and every window a carefully chosen theme.

At the top of the buttresses are the shields of the Loyola and Onaz families, the Basque parents of Ignatius who founded the Society of Jesus, (the Jesuits), in Spain in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Over the front door is the Jesuit emblem IHS. Over the west entrance to the auditorium is the insignia of the house of Loyola, two grey wolves next to a hanging kettle, which represents the generosity of the Loyola family.



The windows are a study in themselves. As stained glass symbols, they are meant to teach and inspire the living tradition of the faith. The chancel window is dedicated to the four



Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, represented symbolically as a man, a lion, a calf and an eagle. The two rose windows in the transepts are dedicated to the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin Mary and, again, present a symbolic treatment of their different titles.

The Canadian Martyrs window over the main door of the Chapel has special significance. It not only honors the Jesuit Martyrs, the first canonized saints of North America, it was a gift of the Irish Canadian Rangers, many of whom were Loyola men, in memory of their comrades who died in the First World War. The regimental colours hang in the old sanctuary.



To those who built it, the Chapel would be scarcely recognizable today. The interior arrangement has been changed several times to accommodate the ideas and needs of the current generation. The altar, traditionally set against the back (north) wall of the sanctuary, was moved forward in the sixties so that the celebrant could face the congregation. It was moved out of the sanctuary in the seventies to the east side wall so that those in attendance could be closer to it, and, in 1991 to its current position, a modernized monastic style, in the center of the Chapel. The most recent addition, the altar frieze created and carved by in 1999 Robert Nagy, a retired Chaplain, has four themes to help the modern viewer see an old story with new eyes. Look for the Resurrection panel, the Crosses and the Priestly People panel, the Eucharist in Daily Life panel, and the Kingdom of God is Within You panel.

## Loyola Chapel is home to a vibrant Roman Catholic community

A team of priests and lay chaplains provide sacramental ministry and spiritual leadership to the people who gather here for celebration of the Eucharist. The liturgies are distinguished by the high degree of lay participation. Members of the congregation serve regularly as readers and Eucharistic ministers and sometimes share in the ministry of the Word by preaching or offering reflections on Scripture or on their own spiritual journey. An excellent choir enhances the Sunday celebrations. Our liturgy committee meets regularly to plan the services and the Chapel Council sets priorities for the community, bringing social justice and other issues of concern to our attention. The Chapel community is particularly welcoming of students' involvement in liturgy and Council. Activities such as pot-luck dinners, talent nights, prayer and discussion groups, Christmas carols and picnic lunches help us to welcome, get to know and support one another. This is a small but vibrant worshipping community open to sharing questions, doubts, faith, struggles, interests and hopes for positive change in the Church and the world.



World Youth Day 2002 participants from Concordia at a Loyola Chapel fundraiser for the group, during the annual Chapel picnic.

## Schedule of Services

**Sunday Eucharist:** 5:00 p.m. [year-round]

**Daily Eucharist or Communion Service:** 12:05 p.m. week-days.

Sacraments of reconciliation, baptism, and marriage are by appointment.

### For information

call 514-848-2424 Ext. 3588  
or e-mail [multi.faith@concordia.ca](mailto:multi.faith@concordia.ca)

Multi-faith Chaplaincy offices:

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The "Jesuit Martyrs" Window,  
over the main entrance